

These dissimilar experiences nevertheless lead to all four characters' deaths—deaths that are surprising and unexpected. In “The Interlopers,” von Gradwitz and Znaeum meet just as a violent storm erupts. Before they can kill each other, a tree falls on them both. Realizing that they are both doomed unless someone comes to find them, von Gradwitz offers Znaeum an end to their feud and a pledge of friendship. Znaeum accepts. Together, they shout for help. With the bonds of their hatred turned to friendship, they await their death from approaching wolves.

Variety of **sentence beginnings** create interest and rhythmic flow.

In sharp contrast, the relationship between Morissot and Sauvage in “Two Friends” is consistent throughout the story. While the two are fishing, Prussian soldiers capture them. In the end, neither speaks because neither wants to betray the other. The soldiers shoot them both. The two men die together, victims of the same fate as von Gradwitz and Znaeum in “The Interlopers.”

In these short stories, Saki and Maupassant present different characters living out different plots to come to the same unexpected end—one that comes to us all eventually. Both authors seem to be saying that, in a world full of natural or political enemies, all people have is each other. Through friendship, we can defy death and find meaning in life.

Conclusion summarizes and interprets the points made, explains the title of the essay, and refers back to the introduction.